Wave® Series Spreading Petunias: Growing On to Finish

Important Notes for Producing Top-Quality Wave Plants

■ **Wave® petunias are long-day plants.** See **Growing On to Finish – Photoperiod/Light** for specific details.
■ **Because of their very vigorous growth, Wave petunias require a higher rate of plant growth regulators than standard petunias.** See **Growing On to Finish – Growth Regulators** for specific details.
■ **Tips for finishing larger liners.** See below.

Plug and Larger Liner Production

Refer to the separate **Wave Spreading Petunias Plug and Liner Production** Grower Facts for complete details.

Growing On to Finish from Plugs

Container Size

Containers should be 4-in. (10-cm) or larger.
4 to 6-in. (10 to 15-cm) pots: 1 plant per pot.
10-in. (25-cm) baskets: 3 plants of **Wave** Purple, **Wave** Pink Improved or **Wave** Misty Lilac, or 4 plants of **Wave** Blue, **Wave** Rose or **Wave** Lavender per basket.

Media

Use a well-drained, disease-free, soilless medium with a pH of 5.5 to 6.3 and a medium initial nutrient charge.

Temperature

Nights: 55 to 65°F (13 to 16°C)
Days: 65 to 75°F (16 to 18°C)
If properly acclimated, **Wave** petunias can tolerate temperatures several degrees below freezing.

Photoperiod/Light

Flower Induction: Wave petunias are long-day plants. **Wave** Blue ('PAS97502'), **Wave** Purple ('PAS3187'), **Wave** Pink Improved ('PAS97504'), **Wave** Rose ('PAS3191') and **Wave** Lavender ('PAS95053') require daylengths longer than 13 hours for flower induction; under short-days, plants will not flower or flowering will be delayed significantly. **Wave** Misty Lilac ('PAS3190') is less sensitive to daylength, requiring daylengths longer than 12 hours.

Start long-day conditions at 5-leaf count or earlier. Continue long-days after transplant until plants have a minimum of 12 leaves. When producing **Wave** petunias early in the year when days are short, decrease crop times by continuing to use supplemental lighting. Day extension or night break (providing a 4-hour night interruption from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.) are acceptable.

Both HID and incandescent lights are equally effective for flower induction; however plants grown under incandescent lights will stretch more and need more PGRs to control plant size. Incandescent lights will also affect plant habit by causing shoots to be more upright than under short days, particularly for **Wave** Rose and **Wave** Misty Lilac. Plants will resume their normal spreading habit under natural light conditions in the garden. Keep light levels as high as possible while maintaining moderate temperatures. High light levels or PGR applications may cause white "splashes" or star patterns to appear on the blooms of **Wave** Misty Lilac.

Fertilizer

Wave petunias require more fertilizer than is usually recommended for petunias. For best results, apply a balanced fertilizer with every second or third irrigation – 200 to 250 ppm N on **Wave** Pink Improved, **Wave** Lavender and **Wave** Misty Lilac, and 300 to 400 ppm on **Wave** Blue, **Wave** Purple and **Wave** Rose. To assure consumer satisfaction, an optional top dressing with slow-release fertilizer can be applied 10 days before shipping.

Growth Regulators

The following growth regulator schedule is used for growing on **Wave** petunias at the PanAmerican Seed Co. Elburn, Illinois (Midwest) research facility. This "recipe" results in 6-in. (15-cm) pots of heavily branched **Wave** plants with a spread of approximately 10 to 12 in. (25 to 30 cm) when flowering begins – the perfect look for point of sale. For **Wave** Rose and **Wave** Misty Lilac, the pots will be covered with blooms. For **Wave** Blue, **Wave** Pink Improved, **Wave** Purple and **Wave** Lavender, the first flowers will appear closer to the center of the pot.

6-In. (15-Cm) Pots
Apply a B-Nine spray at 3,000 to 5,000 ppm 7 to 10 days after transplanting. Repeat 7 days later. Use a Bonzi drench one time (5 ppm for **Wave** Purple, **Wave** Misty Lilac and **Wave** Pink Improved; 2 ppm for **Wave** Lavender, **Wave** Rose and **Wave** Blue), 3 to 4 weeks after transplanting or when shoots have reached the edge of the pot. Follow with a Bonzi spray one time at 30 ppm after visible bud for additional control.

Somewhat dry conditions during the finishing stage will also keep **Wave** petunias more compact; allow plants to wilt slightly between waterings. If plants are grown pot-tight, PGR applications must be done more often or at higher rates than plants that are spaced over time. High temperatures or a moist growing regime may also necessitate greater PGR application rates to produce the best product.

Hanging Baskets
Option 1: Apply a B-Nine spray at 3,000 to 5,000 ppm 7 and 10 days after transplanting. Repeat 7 days later. Use a Bonzi spray one time at 30 ppm, 3 to 4 weeks after transplanting. If necessary, a second Bonzi spray can be done.
Option 2: A Bonzi drench at 3 to 5 ppm may be used as an alternate application. Repeat Bonzi drench if holding plants longer than desired.

B-Nine improves branching, but may delay flowering about 1 week. Bonzi does not appear to affect flower timing. Plants grow out of either plant growth regulator almost immediately after transplant to the landscape. **NOTE:** Be sure to check local regulations regarding the use of plant growth regulators.

Common Problems
No major problems will occur if using good cultural and IPM practices.

Crop Scheduling
Sow to transplant (392-cell plug): 5 to 6 weeks

Transplant to flower:
Spring: 7 to 10 weeks under long days
Summer: 4 to 7 weeks under long days with high light and minimum night temp. of 65˚ F (18˚C).

Total Crop Time:
Spring: 12 to 16 weeks

4-in. (10-cm) pot	1 plant per pot	12-14 weeks
6-in. (15-cm) pot	1 plant per pot	12-14 weeks
10-in. (25-cm) basket	3-4 plants per basket	13-16 weeks

Summer: 9 to 13 weeks

4-in. (10-cm) pot	1 plant per pot	9-11 weeks
6-in.(15-cm) pot	1 plant per pot	9-11 weeks
10-in. (25-cm) basket	3-4 plants per basket	10-13 weeks

Wave Lavender, **Wave** Blue, **Wave** Misty Lilac and **Wave** Rose flower up to one week earlier than **Wave** Purple and **Wave** Pink Improved.

Growing On to Finish from Large Liners
Photoperiod
Natural day during Spring when daylength is longer than 11 hours.

Growth Regulators
One or more (if grown pot to pot) Bonzi 30 to 60 ppm spray based on temperature, weather conditions and cultural practice. All other environmental conditions follow the normal production.

Crop Scheduling
Sowing to transplant: 6 to 7 weeks for direct sowing; 7 to 9 weeks for transplant from small plug.
Transplant to flower: 5 to 6 weeks from 50-cell liner (1 more week for **Wave** Purple and **Wave** Pink Improved); 5 to 7 weeks from 72-cell liner (1 more week for **Wave** Purple and **Wave** Pink Improved).

Handy Tips For Retailers
Be sure to ask your grower for **Wave** petunias in the easy-to-find **Ride The Wave® Pink Pots!**

Keep **Wave** plants fresh and healthy at point-of-sale:
- Display **Wave** petunias in filtered sunlight – in direct sun, the plants dry out quickly and require more frequent watering.
- Keep **Wave** petunias watered. The soil should never dry out completely.
- In the display, space **Wave** petunias with the leaves just touching between the plants.
- Feed the plants with a liquid fertilizer once a week at the ratio recommended on the label.
- Remind home gardeners that **Wave** petunias grow rapidly. These annuals can quickly fill in a square yard of garden space in just a few weeks.

Home Gardener Information
Spread the word to consumers about the **Ride The Wave** website: **Wave-Rave.com** – it's loaded with helpful gardening tips, care instructions and an easy-to-use "Where Can I Get It?" section. You'll also find detailed, ready-to-copy information for gardeners in the **Wave** P.O.P. Kit – order yours by calling **800 231-4868** today.

PanAmerican Seed

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